

REMARKS

Claims 1-39, 41-44, 46-50, and 54-59 were pending. Claims 57 and 58 were allowed. Claims 1-4, 13-20, 35-39, 41-43, 46-50, and 54-56 were rejected. Claims 5-12, 21-34, 44 and 59 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8, 16, 18-19, 22-23, 30 and 38 have been amended by the above amendments. Claims 2, 5, 17, 20-21, 40, 43-45 and 51-56 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 16, 18-19, 22-39, 41-42, 46-50 and 57-59 are currently pending.

In making the above amendments, the applicants have essentially rewritten claims which were objected to in independent form. However, the applicants do not thereby intend to acquiesce to the rejections. Rather, the applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation or divisional applications directed toward any subject matter disclosed in the subject application. The applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the remarks set forth below.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 5. Claim 5 was objected to and depended from claims 1 and 2. Therefore, amended claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-4, 6-7 and 13-15 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 1.

Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Claim 8 was objected to and depended from claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 8 is allowable. Claims 9-12 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 8.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 17, 20 and 21. Claim 21 was objected to and depended from claims 8, 17 and 20. Therefore, amended claim 16 is allowable. Claims 18-19 and 22 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 16.

Claim 23 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16. Claim 23 was objected to and depended from claim 16. Therefore, amended claim 23 is allowable. Claims 24-29 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 23.

Claim 30 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16. Claim 30 was objected to and depended from claim 16. Therefore, amended claim 30 is allowable. Claims 31-37 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 30.

Claim 38 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 43 and 44. Claim 44 was objected to and depended from claims 38 and 43. Therefore, amended claim 38 is allowable. Claims 39, 41-42 and 46-50 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable base claim 38.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should any issues remain, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (408) 293-9000 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues may be expeditiously resolved.

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